

# A FLINT RIDGE QUARRY CHISEL TOOL

by  
Edward Fisher  
1190 Sunbury Road  
Westerville, OH 43081

In 1921 William C. Mills published the most extensive survey completed to date on Flint Ridge in Volume XXX of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society. In that survey he illustrates with photos some of the mauls and hammers recovered by his team in and around the quarry pits found at what is now the intersection of Brownsville and Flint Ridge roads in Hopewell Township, Licking County. These hammers were made of both granite and flint, the largest of which is said by Mills to have exceeded twenty-five pounds in weight.

Two years earlier, in 1919, the Smithsonian Institution published Bulletin 60, which contains Part 1 of W.H. Holmes far-ranging study on the "Lithic Industries" of the Americas. In this report, Holmes prepared two maps featuring Flint Ridge (pages 174-175), which detail the location of mounds, earth enclosures, flint workshops, and quarries on Flint Ridge. The quarry chisel tool illustrated in this article was recovered one mile east of Flint Ridge State Park, and identified in the Holmes report as a location with both quarries and flint workshops.

This specialized flint chisel tool is seven inches in length by two and one quarter inches in width, and is a robust one and one quarter inches in thickness at the "handle." The "bit" shows heavy wear. In color it is now a combination of dark orangish brown and parchment white. It was found on a slight rise made up of waste flakes and preforms.

Over the years we have found what appear to be other similar flint digging tools, as shown in our second illustration, but none of them exhibit the formal "bit" so evident in this hand-held chisel. The type of flint found in this area includes many large flint boulders buried in the ground. The heaviest utilization of this area appears to be by the Adena, although we have evidence of activity at this workshop from Paleo-Indian to Hopewell times. Based on our investigations we believe these "quarry specific" chisel tools were used to dig the flint boulders out of the ground during Middle Woodland times.

## References

1. William C. Mills, Flint Ridge, Pg. 91-161, Volume XXX, The Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society
2. The Smithsonian Institution, Bulletin 60, W. H. Holmes, pages 173-181.



Figure 2 (Fisher) Similar flint tools.



Figure 1 (Fisher) Flint implement from Flint Ridge, 7 1/2 inches long.